Martin O'Malley Governor Anthony G. Brown Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Kickoff for National Victims' Rights Week is Monday, April 23

"Every Victim, Every Time"

## 10 a.m. at the Public Safety Education and Training Center in Sykesville

TOWSON, MD (April 18, 2007) - The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) will kick off National Victims' Rights Week with a special program on Monday, April 23 in Sykesville. This year's theme is, "Every Victim, Every Time."

The DPSCS program will feature a heartwarming presentation by the daughter of a murder victim who has come to forgive her mother's killer; the stirring testimony of a woman whose daughter and grandchildren were killed and who now speaks to inmates; a well-known attorney who has been honored as a victims' rights champion; a special demonstration of canine puppies trained by female inmates for use by disabled citizens; and displays of inmate art and quilts, both of which are ways of "paying back" society. The program also will honor the many men and women with DPSCS who work with victims on a daily basis. DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard will offer words of encouragement.

DPSCS places a high priority on victims' rights. At every level of the system, victim services personnel are there to guide victims though the process and keep track of their offenders.

What: Victims' Rights Week kickoff

When: Monday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to noon

Where: Public Safety Education and Training Center, 6852 4th St.

(on the grounds of the Springfield Hospital Center), Sykesville. *Directions: Interstate 70 to Maryland Route* 32 toward Sykesville; right onto Raincliffe; left onto Buttercup; proceed 1 mile to stop sign at 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The Public Safety Education and Training Center is on

your left.